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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/593,837	06/20/2007	Kazuya Okano	003D.0110.U1(US)	4052
29683	7590	03/13/2009	EXAMINER	
HARRINGTON & SMITH, PC 4 RESEARCH DRIVE, Suite 202 SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/13/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/593,837	Applicant(s) OKANO, KAZUYA	
	Examiner Brigitte R. Hammond	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period **will** apply and **will** expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply **will**, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/21/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “ground bar” in claim 6 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 8,10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 8, it is unclear to the Examiner how the bottom projection is for engaging with the first connector, and the bottom projection is formed on the insertion side of the first connector. Correction is required.

Claim 15 recites the limitation "the longitudinal direction", in line 3, "the detaining portion" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Also in line 2 of claim 15, "a first connector", is this the same first connector recited in claim 1? Also, in line 5, "a connector" is unclear to the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP2000-294328.

Regarding claim 1, JP2000-294328 discloses a first connector 17 connected to a conductor line 13, wherein on a housing (at 29) of said connector are formed a first front projection 42 and a side projection 43 in directions facing outward from the housing, the

first front projection being formed on a front surface of the housing, and the side projection being formed on a side surface of the housing; said first front projection functioning for positioning at the time of fitting and retaining the fit, and the side projection functioning as a latch for retaining the fit.

Regarding claim 2, JP2000-294328 discloses a first connector 17 connected to a conductor line 13, wherein on a housing (at 29) of said connector are formed a first front projection 42 in a direction facing outward from the housing and a first receiving portion 43, said first front projection functioning for positioning at the time of fitting and retaining the fit, and said first receiving portion engaging with a latch for retaining the fit.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, the first connector having two each of the first front projection and the side projection/receiving portion.

Regarding claim 5, wherein said first side projection of said housing has an aperture portion (near 43) for insertion of a fixing member to fix the first connector to the second connector.

Regarding claim 6, wherein a tip of a shield plate 19 positioned on a ground bar (not shown) has a second front projection 26, and said second front projection engages with a corresponding portion to prevent the connector from curving upward.

Regarding claim 13, the connector 17 which is connected to a substrate (not shown) by attaching the first connector 17 to which a conductor line 13 is connected to a second connector 16, wherein the first connector to which the conductor lines are connected "can be" fit roughly perpendicularly with respect to the corresponding second connector and a substrate.

Regarding claim 15, as best understood, JP2000-294328 discloses a fixing member 43 having a longitudinal shaft for retaining a fit between a first connector and a second connector, wherein said fixing member has a neck portion in a portion, said longitudinal shaft passes through the aperture portion in accordance with claim 5, and said neck portion is detained by a detaining portion.

(SECOND CONNECTOR)

Regarding claim 7, JP2000-294328 discloses a second connector 16 fixed to a substrate, wherein on said connector are formed a first front receiving portion 21 and a side receiving portion (area between 21 and 22) for receiving projections formed in a housing of a first connector, the first front receiving portion being formed on a side to which a conductor line of the first connector is not connected, and the side receiving portion being formed to right and left of a direction perpendicular to the direction of the conductor line of said first connector.

Regarding claim 8, as best understood, JP2000-294328 discloses a second connector 16 fixed to a substrate (not shown), wherein on said connector are formed a first front receiving portion 21 for receiving a projection formed in a housing of a first connector, and a bottom projection 22 for engaging with the first connector, the first front receiving portion being formed on a side to which a conductor line of the first connector is not connected.

Regarding claim 9, the connector 16 having two each of the first front receiving portion and the side receiving portion.

Regarding claim 10, the connector 16 having two each of the first front receiving portion and the bottom projection.

Regarding claim 11, the connector 16, wherein the side receiving portion (area between 21 and 22) is a recessed portion, and a portion received in said recess portion is detained.

Regarding claim 12, the side receiving portion (area between 21 and 22) has a detaining portion 22 for engaging a fixing member for fixing the first connector.

Regarding claim 14, the connector which is connected to a substrate (not shown) by attaching a first connector 17 to which a conductor line 13 is connected to a second connector 16, wherein the first connector to which the conductor lines are connected "can be" fit roughly perpendicularly with respect to the corresponding second connector and a substrate.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. and Alternate Fridays from 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Renee Luebke can be reached on 571-272-2009. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brigitte R. Hammond/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2833

February 23, 2009